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8 OCT 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, DDP/SG (Attention [REDACTED])  
SUBJECT : Comments on Use of the Viatron as a  
Keypunch Machine

25X1A

1. This office used the Viatron on a trial basis to create input cards for two different files from 13 August 1970 to 17 September 1970. The Viatron was not used in any other capacity; only as a keypunch machine to create cassettes from which cards were created for loading to tape. The input was verified after the cassettes were created and before the input was transcribed onto cards.

2. Two keypunch operators used the Viatron during the trial period, but only one used the Viatron for keypunching GICS material.

3. Good features of the Viatron are as follows:

- a. It is not as noisy as the IBM-029 keypunch machine.
- b. Fewer keypunch cards are used on the Viatron because the keypunch operator can verify and correct the data in the cassette before the cards are created.
- c. Very easy to correct errors.
- d. The keypunch operator can see the data on the screen of the Viatron.

4. Some undesirable features of the Viatron:

- a. It takes the keypunch operator more time to prepare a keypunch job on the Viatron, i.e., enter the program into the Viatron as opposed to inserting the program card onto the drum of the IBM-029 keypunch machine.
- b. The keypunch operators found it somewhat difficult to adjust to the keyboard of the Viatron because the keys are closer together.
- c. Not suitable for GICS do to the limited record capacity of the cassette.

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5. The operators found they could create and verify the same number of cards per hour with the Viatron as they could with the IBM-029 keypunch machine and the IBM-059 verifier for both GICS and the one line files.

6. Both keypunch operators preferred to use the IBM keypunch machine instead of the Viatron and both felt more comfortable using the IBM.

7. This office does not intend to use the Viatron.

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